

But the tuberculosis of negroes is more largely abdominal than with the whites, so much so that *tuberculosis mesenterica* was designated negro consumption par excellence by Dr. Cartwright.

The negro has not become so important a social factor as to have become as interesting pathologically as he may be some day, and so all his diseases are not touched upon in the text-books. Even from Baltimore, which is nearly a Southern town, we have a new Practice of Medicine, and the word negro is not so much as mentioned in the index.

In the absence of more elaborate statistics, we are aware that death is playing havoc with the freedmen, and that the massing of them in the towns is a potent cause of all their constitutional diseases. In the month of March an insurance solicitor informed the Secretary that his company had paid in Wilmington a policy for every day in one week, and the report of Dr. Potter, Superintendent of Health of New Hanover County, shows that for March, 1892, deaths from consumption were four. There is no remedy applicable to this state of things like the return of the negroes to the farms, even if this be applicable. For the moment you discuss the question, the ways and means rise as insuperable obstacles. There has been a removal of negroes from the eastern portion of the State, but the agents who solicited them as laborers for other States found that the town negro was too well satisfied with his easy life there to be beguiled into the turpentine forests of Georgia, the sugar plantations of Louisiana, or the cotton fields of Mississippi. The means are not obvious whereby the consummation of the segregation of these great masses among the farming districts may be accomplished, but it will come in time, or the race is doomed to a large decline by disease, chief of which is consumption.

#### VITAL STATISTICS OF THE NEGRO.

In "THE ARENA" for April, 1892, we have a thoughtful study of the vital statistics among the negroes. The writer was greatly embarrassed in his investigation of the question by the lack of statistics from the States. Since the days of the faithful statistician, DeBow, Superintendent of the seventh census, no census has been so reliable, especially as to the negro, and the records of few Southern cities were kept regularly and systematically.

The wild conjectures about the immense increase of the negro population made by several contributors to statistical and political papers was contrary to our knowledge of the actual condition of the race. Mr. Frederick L. Hoffman, the author of the article in "THE ARENA" above-mentioned, tabulates the white and colored populations of ten Southern States for 1890 from the census, showing the percentage of increase among both races in these States. In the State of North Carolina, for instance, the increase among the whites for the past decade was 20.98 per cent.,